



Photo on reverse: Second growth redwoods in trail camp

## CHAPTER 4: PARK PLAN

The Park Plan establishes the long-range vision and purpose for Butano SP. Specific goals and supporting guidelines further clarify this purpose and vision. These are written to address or resolve current issues while providing a foundation for continued resource protection and preservation, as well as for facility development and interpretation of the park. The goals and guidelines also serve as design and implementation parameters for required subsequent management and development plans.

### 4.1 CLASSIFICATION

The California Public Resources Code defines the "State Park" classification as follows:

**PRC 5019.53. State parks** consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archeological, ecological, geological, or other such values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora, and the most significant examples of ecological regions of California, such as the Sierra Nevada, northeast volcanic, great valley, coastal strip, Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, southwest mountains and valleys, redwoods, foothills and low coastal mountains, and desert and desert mountains.

Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.

Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking,

and horseback riding, so long as such improvements involve no major modifications of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements which do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions unto themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks.

State parks may be established in the terrestrial or nonmarine aquatic (lake or stream) environments of the state.

## 4.2 DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

A Declaration of Purpose describes the purpose of a park and is the broadest statement of management goals designed to fulfill the vision for the park. A Declaration of Purpose for each state park unit is required by Public Resources Code, Section 5002.2(b), "...setting forth specific long-range management objectives for the park consistent with the park's classification."

The current purpose statement was approved in 1964:

The purpose of Butano State Park is to make available to the people forever, for their inspiration, enlightenment, and enjoyment, the park values of the basin of Little Butano Creek, with its Redwood forest, woodlands, and meadows typical of the southern San Mateo County coastal mountains; together with all related scenic, historic, scientific, and recreational values of the area.

The function of the Division of Beaches and Parks at Butano State Park is to manage the resources and values of the park in such a manner as to perpetuate them in accordance with the declared purpose; to interpret them effectively to the public; and to provide such facilities and services, consistent with the unit purpose, as necessary for full visitor enjoyment of the park.

## PROPOSED DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

Since 1964, additional lands were acquired to include significant natural and cultural resources and recreational opportunities. During the planning process the Declaration of Purpose for the park was revised as follows:

### Declaration of Purpose

The purpose of Butano State Park is to protect, preserve, and perpetuate the important natural and cultural resources and aesthetic values of the coast redwood forest and its associated ecosystems found within the Little Butano Creek, Gazos Creek, and Butano Creek watersheds. The park, with its peaceful character and outstanding scenic and recreational values, represents a successful effort to preserve a portion of the original southern range of the coast redwood forests, interconnected with other parks and public lands in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

The Department shall protect, manage, and interpret these resources in such a manner as to perpetuate them in accordance with park values, to interpret them effectively to the public, and to provide facilities and services for visitor use and enjoyment, consistent with the park classification.

## 4.3 VISION

This vision statement provides an overview of desired future conditions within the park.

### **Vision Statement**

Butano State Park will provide visitor opportunities for overnight and day use experiences in its redwood forest, riparian canyons, and ridgetops within the Little Butano Creek, Gazos Creek, and Butano Creek watersheds. Trails, some leading to remote areas on the rugged upper slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains, will offer expansive vistas of the coastal landscape and connect to nearby state and regional parks and open space. These connections to adjacent properties will also be supported through the interpretation of a shared history of land uses, including those of California Indians, Spanish explorers, historic homesteaders, ranchers, and park visitors.

The park will promote cooperative relationships with neighboring landowners and recreation managers to support public access and recreation opportunities in the Santa Cruz Mountains region. Preservation, education, and interpretation of the park's natural and cultural resources will heighten visitor awareness of the expansive forests that once occupied this region and the values of the remaining redwood forest community.

## 4.4 PLANNING ZONES AND AREA-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

Three planning zones have been identified in Butano SP. Each of these zones are defined by a distinct combination of resource characteristics, landscape character, visitor activities, types of access, development potential, and management or operations requirements. As shown in **Figure 12**, these planning zones are:

- **Entrance and Facilities Zone**
- **Gazos Mountain Camp Zone**
- **Backcountry Zone**

The management intent and guidelines for each planning zone complements the broader view described in the park vision and the parkwide goals and guidelines (Section 4.5), and provides a focused direction that includes approaches to natural, cultural, and aesthetic resource protection, desired visitor experiences, recreation, interpretive, and educational opportunities, and park operations (see **Figure 13**, Proposals).

The parkwide goals and guidelines apply within each of the planning zones. Parkwide concerns, such as the protection and preservation of ecosystem elements and processes, including the protection of special status species and important cultural features, are integral components in the management of all areas.

### ENTRANCE AND FACILITIES ZONE

The Entrance and Facilities Zone is located in the lower portion of the Little Butano Creek watershed. It is characterized by grasslands along Cloverdale Road transitioning to a riparian corridor along Little Butano Creek and then to redwood and Douglas-fir forests. This planning zone contains most of the park's visitor services and recreation opportunities. These include initial visitor contact, orientation, natural and cultural resource interpretation, day use activities, and overnight camping. There are also limited park administration, staff housing, and operations facilities in this area.

This zone will be managed to maintain the primary park entrance and continued visitor contact, orientation, services,



Riparian vegetation and redwood/Douglas-fir forest can be seen behind the entrance kiosk.



and recreation facilities. The combination of recreation opportunities and resource values will be preserved and enhanced. The redwood and Douglas-fir forest ecosystems and the riparian corridors will be managed as important features and essential elements that define this park's distinct identity and its visitor experiences. Opportunities to locate some visitor facilities outside of sensitive resource areas will be pursued as suitable areas are identified. Recreation and administration facilities will remain small-scale to maintain the park's intimate character. Public use areas will be separated from park administration, staff housing, and operations and maintenance facilities as much as possible to reduce congestion and user conflicts in this primary visitor use area.



The visitor center is located at the edge of the forest.

Visitors can enjoy the forest and riparian areas through a variety of recreational opportunities, including hiking, bicycling, picnicking, and camping. The Entrance and Facilities Zone contains trailheads to access the park's higher elevations and connect to an extensive regional trail network. Information about the park's history, natural resources, cultural resources, regional recreation, and trail connections is available in a small visitor center and through other interpretive media, including campfire programs.

### **Entrance and Facilities Zone Guidelines:**

**Entrance 1:** Support volunteer staff and programs with office, parking, and storage accommodations, as part of the entrance and visitor center complex.

**Entrance 2:** Broaden the interpretive information and themes at the visitor center to include the park's cultural history.

**Entrance 3:** Remove the former nature lodge building from the Little Butano Creek riparian zone, and re-establish its function (trail volunteer office/storage) near the park entrance, in conjunction with other operational facilities.

**Entrance 4:** Develop an overlook and provide wetland interpretive information near the wetlands in the Goat Hill area.

**Entrance 5:** Evaluate the current development and use of the Goat Hill area (staff residence and storage) related to year-round access, road maintenance, and wildfire management. Consider the feasibility of additional seasonal or permanent staff housing (trailer pads/utilities) at Goat Hill.



**Entrance 6:** Evaluate the potential for restoring the Little Butano Creek streambed habitat in the vicinity of the dam for fisheries habitat enhancement. Consider alternative methods for continued agricultural water supply and distribution.

**Entrance 7:** Establish a trailhead and trail connection from Butano SP through Año Nuevo SP to the coastline.

**Entrance 8:** Coordinate with POST on possibilities for a multi-use trail connection from Butano SP through Cloverdale Coastal Ranches to the coast. Coordinate on any trail orientation and interpretation facilities as necessary. Consider partnering with Cloverdale Coastal Ranches on a natural history interpretive center. Coordinate with POST/Cloverdale Coastal Ranches for compatible land use between the public use/open space properties.

**Entrance 9:** Develop additional picnic sites and day use parking to accommodate large and small groups where feasible.

**Entrance 10:** Improve the aesthetics by unifying the appearance of buildings and other structures using colors and materials that blend with the natural environment. Ensure that the architectural style of new structures coordinates with the style of existing park structures.

## GAZOS MOUNTAIN CAMP ZONE

This planning zone is located in a forested area within the Gazos Creek watershed. It is southeast of the primary park entrance and adjacent to Gazos Creek Road. Within this forest setting is a small developed site historically known as Gazos Mountain Camp. The former Mountain Camp consists of outdoor activity areas, overnight cabins, a lodge/kitchen building, meeting rooms, restrooms, vehicle parking, and maintenance/storage facilities. The surrounding landscape includes riparian vegetation and redwood forest providing wildlife habitat for common and special status species, including the marbled murrelet.

This planning zone will be managed for its natural, scenic, educational, interpretive, and recreational values. Maintenance, repair, or improvements needed to ensure continued public access and use of the area will avoid or minimize disturbance to natural areas and sensitive wildlife habitat. Opportunities for expansion of visitor facilities are limited in the surrounding area due to the sensitive habitat for



The lodge building is one of several structures remaining from the former youth summer camp.

Adaptive uses of former camp facilities must be compatible with natural resource protection and management objectives.



A meadow in the Gazos Mt. Camp area.

the marbled murrelet. Management of the Gazos Creek riparian area will encourage natural processes, protect special status species, and preserve scenic qualities.

The Gazos Mountain Camp zone will retain existing facilities in the former camp area for adaptive uses that are compatible with natural resource protection and management objectives. Appropriate day use, overnight use, and activities for park visitors may include, but not be limited to, guided walks, resource interpretation, nature study, educational programs, and research focusing on sustainable resource management and environmental restoration.

### **Gazos Mountain Camp Zone Guidelines:**

**Gazos 1:** Maintain or renovate the existing facilities to support park programs and educational and recreation activities that do not adversely affect significant resources. Consider concession or lease agreements to provide programs and services to the public.

**Gazos 2:** Recreation facilities and uses shall be compatible with sensitive habitat management. Existing uses may be modified through an adaptive management analysis of social and environmental impacts and appropriate management actions. Management and use shall be in accordance with regulatory permits or operating agreements.

**Gazos 3:** Maintain the area aesthetics and scenic qualities. Unify the exterior appearance of the buildings and structures through the use of appropriate materials, design details, and color selection that are compatible with the forest environment; maintain the facilities in good repair; and separate vehicle and pedestrian circulation where possible.

**Gazos 4:** Research, survey, record, and interpret the history and significance of the cultural resources related to the site of the historic sawmill. Protect any archeological resources found at this site.

**Gazos 5:** Implement appropriate actions to promote the long-term recovery and survival of the marbled murrelet. Actions would include, but not be limited to, coordination and consultation with CDFG and USFWS prior to activities that may affect murrelets or their nesting habitat, minimizing disturbance in old growth redwood habitat, educating visitors about the marbled murrelet including actions that can reduce threats to this bird, and

monitoring visitor activities and use intensity to ensure minimal impacts to the marbled murrelet (see guideline **Murrelet 1** and special status animals guidelines).

## BACKCOUNTRY ZONE

The Backcountry Zone is generally characterized by the steeper, more rugged terrain in the park's higher elevations, forested mountains, and riparian corridors within the Little Butano Creek, Gazos Creek, and Butano Creek watersheds. The majority of the park is in the Backcountry Zone.

The Backcountry will be managed primarily to preserve its cultural, natural, and scenic resources and sense of solitude. The area's cultural heritage, forests, brushlands, native wildlife and plants, riparian corridors, and expansive ridgetop vistas of the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Pacific Ocean are invaluable qualities that will be protected and interpreted.

A low level of visitor use contributes to the remote character of the Backcountry. Development in this area is minimal and includes multi-use trails, fire roads, vista overlooks, and trail camps. Access into and use of the Backcountry is dependent on the unpaved road and trails. The extensive trail system allows hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians to explore the park and to connect with the region's network of multi-use trails to venture into the surrounding Santa Cruz Mountains and coastal areas, including Big Basin Redwoods SP, Año Nuevo SP, and other regional parks, natural lands, and open space preserves. Special event/scheduled shuttle tours can provide visitors with backcountry experiences, including spectacular vistas and knowledge about the region's natural and cultural heritage.

The sense of solitude engendered by the backcountry zone's remote, rugged character will be retained.

### Backcountry Zone Guidelines:

**Backcountry 1:** Interpret the story of the Jackson Flats homestead through interpretive panels along the trail near the site and information provided in the visitor center. Conduct archival research in conjunction with an archaeological survey of the Jackson Flats property. Record and develop preservation guidelines for any existing resources.

**Backcountry 2:** Develop vehicle pullouts or trailhead parking along Gazos Creek Road, in coordination with San Mateo County.



A view to the Pacific Ocean  
from the Butano Fire Road in  
the backcountry.

**Backcountry 3:** Coordinate with San Mateo County to reduce erosion along Gazos Creek Road and improve the water quality of Gazos Creek.

**Backcountry 4:** Consider scheduled shuttle tours of backcountry areas using existing fire roads, if road easements and ownership will allow this on suitable routes, as part of interpretive program activities or during special events.

**Backcountry 5:** Provide additional trail camps in backcountry locations to accommodate small and large groups.

**Backcountry 6:** Coordinate with Cal Fire to manage and maintain the fire roads to reduce erosion and sedimentation.

## 4.5 PARKWIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES

The parkwide goals and guidelines address existing issues and provide ongoing guidance that will be implemented to achieve the long-term vision for the park. The *goals* establish the purpose and the *guidelines* provide the direction that California State Parks will consider to achieve these goals. The following goals and guidelines address managing and interpreting the park's resources, providing recreational facilities and opportunities, and operating and maintaining the park.

### PHYSICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

#### Geology and Hydrology

Within Butano SP natural geologic and hydrologic processes are reshaping the park's landforms and changing its watercourses. These processes happen both slowly over geologic time and abruptly during earthquakes, intense or prolonged storm events, or other natural disasters. Steep topography and unconsolidated soils, periodic heavy rainfall, and occasional earthquakes make this area naturally prone to floods, landslides, slope erosion, stream bank slumping, stream sedimentation impacts, and log and debris jams. Human development and use, such as roads, trails, utilities, and recreation facilities, can increase the frequency and scale of these natural processes as well as introduce sediments, septic system wastes, and other pollutants into



watersheds. Movement on the active San Gregorio Fault, which traverses the western boundary of Butano SP, could result in surface rupture and strong ground shaking. Appropriate initial site investigation, siting, design, and operation of development and facilities is critical to avoiding and minimizing negative human impacts on water quality and habitat integrity, as well as avoiding loss of human life and property.

A close relationship between watershed integrity, water quality, facility development, and natural disaster preparedness is reflected in the following goals and guidelines. These goals and guidelines are further reinforced by implementing the policies presented in the Department Operations Manual (DOM) for watershed management, stream management, watershed and stream protection, stream restoration, floodplain management, wetlands management, water quality and quantity, water rights, geologic hazards, facility siting in geologically hazardous areas (including seismic hazard zones), and protection of geologic and soil resources. In addition to the DOM, California State Parks has developed best management practices (BMPs) for road recontouring and rehabilitation, road removal, road to trail conversion, and culvert replacement. The standard construction BMPs for erosion and sediment control from the California Stormwater Quality Association (Construction Handbook, January 2003) will also be used where appropriate.

**Geology and Hydrology Goal:** Minimize human impacts on natural geologic and hydrologic processes and values while protecting human life and property from potential negative effects from these natural processes.

#### **Geology and Hydrology Guidelines:**

**Geology/Hydrology 1:** Monitor and document the geologic and hydrologic processes affecting the park and its resources.

**Geology/Hydrology 2:** Determine if, where, and how human development or activities may be exaggerating the natural rates or scales of landslides, stream channel erosion, log and debris jams, and excessive sedimentation (aggradation) or degradation. Identify management actions that can reduce or avoid negative human impacts to slope and stream integrity and to water quality. Management actions could include road and trail rehabilitation or removal from highly erosive areas, stream modifications, debris management, and revegetation.

**Geology/Hydrology 3:** Understand and comply with the surface and groundwater beneficial uses and water quality objectives set forth in the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan that apply to Butano SP watersheds and take appropriate actions to prevent degradation of surface and groundwater within the park. Examples of appropriate actions include ensuring that park sewage treatment meets water quality standards and planning and implementing new park projects so they do not degrade surface or groundwater quality or affect the water production rates of pre-existing nearby wells.

**Geology/Hydrology 4:** Cooperate with other landowners and regulatory agencies to address and remediate sediment issues affecting the park.

**Geology/Hydrology 5:** As appropriate, develop and use standard BMPs for erosion, sediment control, dust, and storm water runoff for park projects. Avoid storage of surplus waste materials in floodplains, in areas of potential landslides, near surface waters, or in drainages.

**Geology/Hydrology 6:** Maintain and manage native riparian vegetation bordering streams and springs, where feasible to filter sediments and other pollutants from runoff that enter these water bodies. Use biotechnical methods where possible when it is necessary for embankment stabilization and for stream restoration.

**Geology/Hydrology 7:** Include professional biological, geological, and engineering evaluations as appropriate when locating and designing permanent structures, campgrounds, roads, utilities, and trails to avoid or reduce potential damage to people and property from unstable soil, landslides, debris flows, floods, and earthquakes.

**Geology/Hydrology 8:** Construct all structures in the park in conformance with seismic design criteria in the most current edition of the Uniform Building Code or California Building Code.

**Geology/Hydrology 9:** Participate with others, such as resource/regulatory agencies and adjacent landowners, to develop watershed management plans or assessments for major watersheds contained in the park. The watershed planning effort will use current information from existing watershed assessments and studies. These watershed plans will analyze the sediment transport functions in the park's stream systems, evaluate impacts of

facilities and park use, and provide a scientific basis for selection, design, implementation, and monitoring of future fisheries habitat enhancement and sediment reduction projects. Elements of the plan or assessment may include, but would not be limited to:

- Inventory and prioritize sediment sources, and analyze the sediment transport functions in the stream systems with respect to their impact on in-stream habitat and on sediment delivery to Little Butano Creek and Gazos Creek.
- Determine if fluvial geomorphic analyses are needed and what level is required for all streams. Coordinate this analysis with other state, federal, and local agency monitoring efforts.
- Assess the impacts of park facilities and activities on the integrity of the park's ecology, watershed, and water quality.
- Determine and delineate the 100-year floodplain for Little Butano Creek and Gazos Creek.

## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Butano SP contains many diverse plant communities and provides habitat for special status animal species. Preservation of the park's native vegetation communities, wildlife habitats, and wildlife populations remains key to the health of local and regional ecosystems. State Parks will comply with the policies, management concepts, and principles outlined in the DOM Chapter 0300, Natural Resources. The following goals and guidelines provide further direction for natural resource management.

**Natural Resource Management Goals:** Protect, restore, and maintain the native ecosystems, especially vegetation complexes and wildlife populations, at Butano SP. Maintain, enhance, or restore the movement of native species through the park and regional ecosystems in order to protect and promote species abundance and diversity. Protect special status plants and wildlife within the park and manage for their perpetuation. Restore, maintain, and protect native habitats.

### **Vegetation Management Guidelines:**

Native plant communities are essential habitat for both special status and common wildlife species. Two of the plant communities found in the park, Arroyo Willow and California Oatgrass, are designated as rare by the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Data Base.

Preservation of the park's native vegetation communities, wildlife habitats, and wildlife populations is key to the health of local and regional ecosystems.



The long term health of the park's native plant communities, which provide habitat for native wildlife, may be threatened by the effects of climate change and invasive non-native plant species such as pampas grass and French broom.

**Vegetation 1:** Re-establish natural ecological processes, such as the re-introduction of fire under prescribed conditions, which are essential for the development and maintenance of native plant communities. For example, rare communities such as knobcone pine forest are fire dependent, needing recurring fire events for stand renewal. Maintain other sustainable forest management techniques to ensure healthy forests, which may contribute to the reduction of atmospheric carbon through carbon sequestration, especially in conifer tree species.

**Vegetation 2:** Identify any locations in the park that are heavily impacted from past management practices (e.g. logging, fire suppression, facility development) and implement appropriate vegetation and habitat restoration programs. Components of such restoration programs may include revegetation with native species, fenced enclosures, facility relocations, or temporary or permanent closures of individual campsites and picnic sites. Areas of old growth redwood forest identified in previous studies as being heavily impacted are of high management priority. Reforestation, where appropriate, can also help to positively affect climate change by reducing greenhouse gases through carbon sequestration.

**Vegetation 3:** Manage invasive non-native plant species with appropriate methods to prevent their establishment and spread. Priority for control efforts will be given to those species that cause damage and have the greatest potential to spread rapidly in the park.

**Vegetation 4:** Prescribed fire should be used as part of a vegetation management strategy, when appropriate, to achieve natural and cultural landscape management goals. This program, including the Unit Prescribe Fire Plan, will be upgraded periodically to reflect the ongoing accomplishments and necessary refinements, changes in prescribed fire science and technology, state and federal regulations, and be reviewed for consistency with other programs affecting vegetation management strategies and public safety.

**Special Status Plants Guidelines:**

Suitable to marginally suitable habitat exists within the park for 24 special status plants. Nine of these species are CNPS List 1B plants, one is List 2, one is List 3, and thirteen are List 4. In addition to their CNPS status, three of the species are listed by the USFWS as Species of Local Concern. These are bent-flowered fiddleneck, coast rock cress, and stinkbells.

**Special Plants 1:** Protect special status plant species to maintain or restore populations. Initiate surveys for special status plant species to document their distribution and abundance.

**Special Plants 2:** Implement appropriate management using proven ecological principles and professionally accepted methods for those species identified as at risk or with known threats.

**Fire Processes Guidelines:**

Fire is an important natural process that is integral to the ecology of the Santa Cruz Mountains Bioregion. Many of the plant communities within this region, including some of those in Butano SP, depend on periodic fires for renewal, regeneration, and maintenance of healthy ecosystems. This is especially true for the park's knobcone pine forest community. However, natural fire regimes have been greatly altered since the Euroamerican settlement of the area. Subsequent land use or resource utilization (e.g. logging) within the park and surrounding lands has created a mosaic of natural habitats interspersed with lands in various stages of succession. In some locations, such as publicly owned lands, it is feasible and appropriate to implement a well-planned program of prescribed fire to promote natural processes, control exotic species, avoid the build-up of dead wood and underbrush that can fuel more destructive fires, and rejuvenate and maintain healthy ecosystems. (See guidelines **Vegetation 1** and **Vegetation 4**).

The prevention and suppression of destructive wildland fires threatening human lives, property, and sensitive natural resources is of prime importance. Wildland fires can have a significant effect on park resources and operations. DOM Chapter 0300, Natural Resources, Section 0313.2 describes the Department's policy on fire management, including wildfire management (Section 0313.2.1) and prescribed fire management (Section 0313.2.2). An Interagency Agreement concerning wildland fire protection between State Parks and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), known as a Wildfire Local Operating Agreement, outlines

the primary responsibilities of both agencies, modified fire suppression techniques, and post-fire rehabilitation. Primary responsibilities of State Parks personnel concerning life and safety include the protection and evacuation of visitors and park personnel, area closures, law enforcement, protection of park facilities and resources, and initial fire response. State Parks has also prepared guidelines for the protection of buildings and structures near wildland vegetation (Protection of Structures from Wildland Fire Guidelines, April 2007). These guidelines are intended to minimize the probability that structures near flammable vegetation will ignite and burn during a wildland fire.

**Fire 1:** A Wildfire Management Plan is required for units that have significant wildland resources, such as Butano SP. The Department shall coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as Cal Fire and county and volunteer fire departments to complete and update the Wildfire Management Plan for this unit, addressing all aspects of wildfire planning, including prevention, pre-suppression, and suppression.

### **Wildlife Management Guidelines:**

The protection and perpetuation of native wildlife species is contingent upon the successful rehabilitation and continuance of native plant and aquatic communities, combined with the removal of non-native, invasive plant and animal species. Wildlife feeding and availability of food provided by humans disrupts natural wildlife processes and threatens the health and existence of some native wildlife species, particularly the marbled murrelet.

**Wildlife 1:** Cooperate with federal, state, and local agencies and with open space organizations to promote effective and efficient park and regional vegetation, habitat, and wildlife resource management.

**Wildlife 2:** Avoid or reduce negative impacts to critical resource areas where possible and follow all applicable regulations and guidelines for minimizing adverse impacts. Evaluate the need and benefits of new facilities, including trails, with their potential negative impacts to plant and wildlife species. (See guideline **Trails 3**).

**Wildlife 3:** Non-native animals have the potential to disrupt naturally functioning ecosystems and displace and out-compete native wildlife for available resources. Control and/or eradicate non-native animal species that have been identified by State Park biologists and/or park

managers as creating significant impacts to special status wildlife species and their native habitat. Utilize methods based on sound principles of ecosystem management and that are consistent with the policies contained in the DOM, Chapter 0300, Natural Resources. Priority for control efforts should be given to those species most detrimental to the environment and for which there is a reasonable probability of success.

**Wildlife 4:** Reduce and, where possible, eliminate wildlife access to human food and garbage by using wildlife-proof trash containers and dumpsters throughout the park, increasing the frequency of trash collection, and educating the public about the detrimental effects that human food can have on the ecological balance of the park and surrounding regions. Post signs throughout the park informing people not to feed wildlife and to cover and store food and trash appropriately. Also see listed actions for Marbled Murrelet Management and Conservation (guideline **Murrelet 1**).

### **Special Status Animals Guidelines:**

Thirty-six special status animal species are confirmed or strongly suspected to occur within the boundaries of Butano SP. Seven of the species with confirmed sightings in the park have state and/or federal listing status. These are the American peregrine falcon, California red-legged frog, coho salmon (central California coast ESU), marbled murrelet, San Francisco garter snake, steelhead (central California coast ESU), and bank swallow. Appropriate management should be provided for all special status animal species.

**Special Animals 1:** Monitor marbled murrelets, San Francisco garter snakes, California red-legged frogs, and other special status animal species to identify population trends and to develop management strategies for their protection and perpetuation. Encourage and support scientific surveys and studies to be conducted in the park to gather more information about the distribution, status, and condition of sensitive natural resources.

**Special Animals 2:** Protect all special status native wildlife species and their habitats. Include all taxa that are locally important (including endemic species) as well as those protected by federal and/or state law. A comprehensive list of species requiring special management attention should be updated as needed. Specific programs using sound ecological principles and professionally accepted

methods are necessary to protect and rehabilitate special status animal populations and their habitats.

**Special Animals 3:** Minimize trail building, roadwork, and park facility maintenance activities during the breeding seasons for special status species.

**Special Animals 4:** Consider the needs of special status aquatic species, including California red-legged frog and anadromous fish, in the timing and implementation of any activity that results in streambed alteration or disturbance to wetlands or riparian habitat. This includes the sizing and placement of culverts beneath roads and trails throughout the park to facilitate fish passage. Culvert drainage patterns should follow the natural grade of the stream as much as possible to maximize fish passage. Work with landowners adjacent to Little Butano Creek and Gazos Creek to help re-establish suitable habitat for migratory fish.

**Special Animals 5:** Inspect structures for special status species, particularly for bat populations, prior to renovation or removal. Take appropriate measures to protect any identified special status species.

*Marbled Murrelet Management and Conservation Guidelines:*

The marbled murrelet is a federal threatened and state endangered Pacific seabird that nests in the upper branches of mature redwood and Douglas-fir trees, and has been observed in Butano SP. Protection of nesting habitat is essential for this murrelet population in the Santa Cruz Mountains to stabilize and recover. The following guideline has been developed in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game.

**Murrelet 1:** The Department will coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game toward the long-term recovery and survival of the Santa Cruz Mountains marbled murrelet population. Implement actions to minimize marbled murrelet population decline, protect and restore marbled murrelet breeding habitat, reduce the impacts of human presence on the breeding success of this bird, and contribute to the recovery of the species. This includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

- Consult with the CDFG and USFWS prior to initiating activities that may affect murrelets and/or their nesting habitat.

- Control corvid populations and reduce the human influences that support unnaturally high corvid populations and concentrations in certain areas, such as the Ben Ries Campground. Consider corvid management through direct removal when other control measures prove inadequate. Consult with experts on appropriate methods of corvid control and/or removal.
- Improve waste patrol and cleanup in visitor use areas.
- Educate visitors about the threatened status of the marbled murrelet and why they should not feed wildlife.
- Minimize disturbances, trail building, and maintenance activities in old growth redwood habitat during the marbled murrelet breeding season (March–September).
- Coordinate the park's Tree Hazard Program with murrelet habitat protection, especially during the marbled murrelet breeding season.
- Where possible, consider relocating camping and/or picnic facilities or rotating use in areas with marbled murrelet habitat.
- Support and participate in marbled murrelet research that will contribute to the conservation of this species.

### **Regional Habitat Management Guidelines:**

The Santa Cruz Mountains Bioregion is comprised of a mosaic of pristine or near pristine native habitats, habitats in various stages of succession, and lands converted for agriculture, road development, and home site/business purposes that provide little or no wildlife habitat value. Butano SP provides a valuable core of preserved native habitats within this bioregion that is contiguous with other protected public lands or is linked to other native habitats. These linkages, both terrestrial and aquatic, allow movement of wildlife from one suitable habitat to another. Linkages may take the form of stream corridors or parcels of wildland through developed areas. Identifying and protecting linkages between the park and other surrounding open space is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems and supporting regional conservation.

**Regional Habitat 1:** Protect known wildlife habitat linkages such as stream corridors and areas of natural vegetation to permit movement of native resident or migrating fish

and wildlife and to increase species abundance and diversity. Collect baseline information to monitor the health and function of core habitat areas and these linkages. Monitor wildlife as necessary to gauge the effectiveness of linkages and to identify wildlife population trends. The effects of human uses and impacts on the integrity of the park's ecosystems and wildlife movement should be measured and, where necessary, minimized. Maintain working relationships with other landowners, such as the open space districts, to coordinate efforts to identify and preserve habitat linkages.

**Regional Habitat 2:** Acquire available properties from willing sellers or obtain conservation easements that would connect wildlife habitats in the park to properties in the region that preserve similar habitats, that would provide more potential habitat in the case of habitat shift due to global climate change, and that might otherwise be converted.

**Regional Habitat 3:** Coordinate, collaborate, and take a leadership role, when appropriate, with agencies and regional partners on recommended regional conservation actions for the Central Coast region as identified in CDFG's Wildlife Action Plan. Actions include:

- Work with agencies and government land use planning processes to establish regional goals for species and habitat protection;
- Protect large unfragmented habitat areas, wildlife corridors, and underprotected ecological community types;
- Protect sensitive species and wildlife habitats;
- Provide greater resources and efforts to control invasive species and prevent new introductions.

## CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Butano SP contains a variety of cultural resources representing several phases of human occupation and activities. The park contains important Native California Indian sites unique to this portion of the state. Extensive prehistoric midden sites have been found in similar environments to those found within the park, and are anticipated to also be present within Butano SP. In addition, several historical-period activities are represented within the park, including homesteading, logging, transportation-related features, and remnants of a cooperative farming subdivision; however, few of these



resources have been recorded, inventoried or formally evaluated. Efforts should be made to identify and protect significant cultural resources.

**Cultural Resource Management Goal:** Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources in Butano SP.

**Cultural Resource Management Guidelines:**

**Cultural 1:** Conduct a comprehensive survey of historic resources in the park to include focused archival research on the history of the park (for those portions not already completed). Complete focused historic context studies for the park that will provide for more meaningful significance evaluations. In particular, the significance of historic logging activities in the park should be evaluated.

**Cultural 2:** Survey, record, and evaluate areas of high probability for prehistoric archaeological sites (particularly along ridgelines). Establish criteria of significance for each class of resource for sites encountered in the future. Investigate, record, and evaluate the known historical sites and areas of historic-period activity.

**Cultural 3:** Preserve and protect those resources found to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources and that are of regional or statewide significance. Develop treatment recommendations for significant historic structures and identify compatible and non-compatible uses. Protect significant prehistoric sites through identification, preservation, and avoidance.

**Cultural 4:** Prior to site-specific development, areas of potential impact shall be surveyed and evaluated to determine the presence and significance of cultural resources, the potential impact, and recommended mitigation, if appropriate. Impacts may be reduced by project avoidance, site capping, structural stabilization/preservation, project design, and data recovery.

**Cultural 5:** Park development strategies should include cultural resource treatments, as defined by the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, for identified historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and features, combined with the interpretive objectives for the landscape as a whole, including the periods of significance, the integrity of the landscape and

its character-defining features, and the existing condition of these individual features.

## Museum Collections

Museum collections are important to understanding a park's cultural and natural histories and for interpreting that information to the public.

A Scope of Collections Statement is required for every park unit that has, or plans to have, museum objects. The purpose of the Scope of Collections Statement is to define what objects constitute the permanent collection for this park, how the objects are used, and what objects are appropriate for the park to acquire. The Scope of Collections Statement describes how the park plans to interpret, exhibit, conserve, and make collections available for public research. It includes a description of the park's museum collections, historical time periods, interpretive themes, intended uses of museum objects, and recommendations for museum acquisitions and collection management goals.

The following collections guidelines outline the appropriate management of the museum collection. The Scope of Collections Statement is the document which will provide a detailed management plan.

**Museum 1:** A Scope of Collections Statement (SOCS) should be prepared for this unit and updated periodically to provide clear guidelines on which objects to seek, acquire, decline, and deaccession.

**Museum 2:** The park's museum collections shall relate closely to the park's history, resources, interpretive themes, and values, as given in this plan and further developed in the SOCS. Documents and artifacts of people, events, cultural features, or natural features shall be protected, curated, and accessible to the public.

**Museum 3:** Appropriate and relevant objects should be acquired, catalogued, and maintained to preserve original elements of the cultural and natural environment, to preserve documentation of people, events, and cultural or natural features that are central to the park's purpose, and to support the interpretation of park themes as presented in the interpretation section of this plan and any future park interpretive planning. These could include documents related to land use and park history, natural history specimens, and objects related to Native California Indian lifeways, logging, milling, homesteading, and



Every park that has museum objects, such as this owl specimen in the visitor center, is required to have a Scope of Collections Statement.

redwood preservation efforts. The SOCS will specify what types of items are desirable to acquire and maintain.

**Museum 4:** Collections acquired for or maintained at the park shall be managed in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in Chapter 2000, Museum Collections Management, in the Department's Operations Manual, and the procedures specified in the SOCS. The Department should establish secure and climate-controlled collections storage, management, and research space for the park's collections.

## VISITOR USE AND OPPORTUNITIES

In the last two to three decades, California's population has diversified and increased exponentially. As this trend continues, the demand for outdoor recreation activities and facilities will increase.

Of the several redwood parks in the region Butano SP seems the smallest, yet it offers a range of recreation opportunities. These include camping, picnicking, and trail use in a large backcountry area. Its unique recreation value lies in the intimate setting of its central visitor area, with an extensive trail system extending out into the Santa Cruz Mountains. Opportunities exist to increase and develop new trail connections to Big Basin Redwoods SP, Año Nuevo SP, and through POST's Cloverdale Coastal Ranches property to the coast. Trails, including shared or multi-use trails, could be created to connect to nearby regional and statewide trails, the coastline, and to urban centers around the park. In addition, minor modifications to the park's existing day and overnight use facilities could expand recreation opportunities without compromising the park's intimate atmosphere. As opportunities occur, camping could be expanded into areas outside of the more sensitive old growth redwood forest. There is also potential to collaborate with POST on the adjacent Cloverdale Coastal Ranches property to develop integrated recreation facilities and programs.

The demand for more and different outdoor recreation opportunities will increase as California's population continues to grow and diversify.

### Recreation

Planning for recreation facilities and programs in the park is a complex process that requires the consideration of diverse issues and the collaboration of many agencies, groups, and individuals.

**Recreation Goal:** Provide a range of high-quality recreational opportunities at Butano SP that allow California's diverse population to visit, enjoy, experience, and appreciate the

natural, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic resources of the park, especially the coast redwoods.

### **Recreation Guidelines:**

**Recreation 1:** Provide facilities and programs that enhance the public's enjoyment and appreciation of the park's natural, cultural, recreational and aesthetic resources, the coast redwood forest in particular. Include facilities that support appropriate activities such as hiking, camping, backpacking, nature and history study, bicycling, horseback riding, picnicking, and the enjoyment of solitude.

**Recreation 2:** Consider relocating, removing, and/or reorganizing recreation facilities as necessary to better serve visitor recreation and protect the public, to preserve and protect park resources, and to provide efficient park administrative, public safety, and maintenance functions.

**Recreation 3:** Provide recreation opportunities that expand the use of the park in the spring and fall "shoulder seasons" as well as in winter to increase recreational access and opportunities. Provide cool-season recreational programs and facilities. Investigate the potential for indoor overnight accommodations as a result of future acquisition and/or conversion of existing uses to serve higher priority visitor needs.

**Recreation 4:** Create diversified recreation opportunities across the region's state parks to disperse recreation, reduce resource impacts in sensitive natural, cultural, and aesthetic resource areas, and provide facilities and recreational opportunities that respond to unique site characteristics. Coordinate with federal, state and county agencies and open space and community-based organizations to plan a regional network of recreation opportunities.

**Recreation 5:** Provide information and facilities to encourage visitation to nearby state parks and regional open space. Methods to encourage this cross-connection include information describing regional resources and the area's historic connections, location maps and park and open space access information, trail connections, and mass transit opportunities.

**Recreation 6:** Provide additional day use and overnight accommodations, where possible, to serve the visitor needs reflected by California's changing demographic

trends. Consider group picnic and camping facilities, alternative overnight accommodations such as cabins or yurts, provisions for RV campers, and ADA-compliant recreational facilities where appropriate and compatible with the intimate park setting. Provide opportunities for loop trails and modify existing trails to provide overlooks for scenic, natural, and/or cultural resources, and to incorporate places for photo opportunities and interpretation.

**Recreation 7:** Evaluate new technologies and recreational activities and incorporate those that would enhance visitor experiences and benefit recreation facilities and programs, such as the Internet for public outreach and wireless Internet access.

**Recreation 8:** Acquire adjacent properties or easements from willing sellers that would provide recreation opportunities and connections between Butano SP and other state and regional parks.

## Access and Circulation

Access to the park is through multiple entry points, on Cloverdale Road, Gazos Creek Road, and the Butano Fire Road. The park's main visitor entrance is located off of Cloverdale Road. The extensive trail system extends out from this entrance, day use, and campground area, and connects to the upper reaches of the Little Butano Creek, Butano Creek, and Gazos Creek watersheds. There are opportunities for additional trail connections to adjacent state parks and regional open space and natural lands.

**Access and Circulation Goal:** Provide access to and within the park that allows public use of its recreation resources and that is well-designed, efficient, safe, easy to understand, convenient, and enjoyable. Coordinate and maintain staff and visitor access and circulation to optimize efficiency, security, emergency access, and enjoyment of the park while still keeping with the park's character and avoiding resource degradation.

### Access and Circulation Guidelines:

**Access 1:** Establish a park access system that provides clear direction for visitor arrival to and departure from the park. Park entrance facilities should convey a sense of the park's character through sensitive design that reflects local natural and aesthetic resources and avoids negative impacts to those resources. Locate the entrance facilities

to maximize visitor contact and administrative efficiency. Coordinate with Caltrans and San Mateo County to ensure that road construction, maintenance, and signage outside the park (especially on Gazos Creek Rd., Cloverdale Rd., and Highway 1) will result in convenient, and enjoyable driving experiences for motorists as they access the park's recreation areas.

**Access 2:** Work with the San Mateo County Roads Department to identify immediate, short-term safety and signage improvements that can be made (including at the trail junctions/parking areas along Gazos Creek Rd. and Cloverdale Rd.) and ensure that these are incorporated into regional transportation plans and budgets.

**Access 3:** Conduct detailed site analysis and evaluate alternatives for the park entry to address current and future vehicular and safety needs. Develop an entry plan that identifies facility locations, defines circulation routes, includes visitor information, directional and interpretive signage, establishes sufficient buffers between use areas and sensitive habitats, and respects the site's rustic character by minimizing road widths and visual intrusions, where feasible. Conduct project level environmental impact assessments, obtain necessary permits, and prepare CEQA documents and mitigation, as required.

**Access 4:** Review long-term infrastructure requirements needed to handle increased future use of the park.

**Access 5:** Work with transportation agencies to support an integrated and efficient multi-modal transportation system that facilitates visitor access to the park. Coordinate with these agencies to provide facilities such as bus pullouts, separate multi-use paths, and transit shelters that encourage and support a variety of park access transportation modes, including pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian access, bus, shuttle, and other forms of public and private transit.

**Access 6:** Evaluate existing signs along park access routes and in the park's entrance area to determine if they are adequate to direct and orient visitors entering or leaving the park to maximize efficiency and visitor safety. Remove, combine, or relocate signs that are confusing, unnecessary, or unsightly in order to establish a design continuity and park identity.



**Access 7:** Provide a circulation system that separates vehicular from non-vehicular traffic where feasible, and separates public from park administration and maintenance functions in order to reduce potential user conflicts and enhance non-vehicular modes of transportation.

**Access 8:** During the peak season, coordinate with regional transit providers or concessionaires to provide transportation alternatives between area parks and open space preserves, such as a shuttle system that provides connections from Butano SP to other local parks, natural areas, and open space preserves.

## Parking

Butano SP has parking facilities (approximately 100 spaces) primarily supporting the small day use picnic area and campground. High summer recreation demand creates some traffic conflicts, especially in the day use picnic area.

**Parking Goal:** Provide well-designed and convenient parking facilities that minimize negative impacts to natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreation resources.

### Parking Guidelines:

**Parking 1:** Provide safe and convenient day use and overnight parking as well as parking for group use and special events. Design and implement parking improvements to respond to actual demand for parking to minimize formal parking lot development. Explore alternatives for accommodating special event parking, such as the use of unpaved areas and satellite parking areas. Reconfigure parking availability where necessary to address public safety concerns and improve visitor experiences.

**Parking 2:** Ensure there is adequate and safe parking on the park's entrance road to accommodate visitors at peak use periods. Conduct periodic parking and circulation assessments to determine future parking needs and opportunities and to identify physical and environmental constraints. These assessments will be performed, as necessary, in response to the changing visitor and operational parking demands in the park.

**Parking 3:** Evaluate trailhead parking potential with access off of Gazos Creek Rd. and Cloverdale Rd.



**Parking 4:** Limit the number of parking facilities near or adjacent to sensitive natural, cultural, and aesthetic resource areas to minimize negative impacts to those resources.

## Trails

Trails are important recreational facilities within and surrounding Butano SP and opportunities for a variety of trail experiences are in high demand. The park's location within the Santa Cruz Mountains may provide an opportunity to act as a central node for trail connections within the region.

**Trails Goal:** Provide a trail system that offers a range of trail experiences, including hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use. The trails will provide access to park areas and many will connect to regional and statewide trail systems.

### Trails Guidelines:

**Trails 1:** Evaluate the condition of and use intensity of existing trails. Develop new trails and trailheads as necessary to provide visitors with a range of choices for enjoying pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian access to the park's resources. Focus on providing trails that access areas of natural, cultural, and scenic interest, backcountry areas, and trails that connect to adjacent state parks, the Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, and regional trails. Promote and encourage the use of appropriate existing unpaved roads within the park as recreation trails for hiking, biking, and equestrian use. Where possible, locate trails for multiple users along historic trail routes, such as along ridges. Improve existing trailheads and create new trailhead facilities and trail connections in the backcountry. Use the Department's *Trails Handbook* to guide trail design, construction, management, and maintenance.

**Trails 2:** Adapt existing trails or develop new trails to provide trails and trail loops of various lengths that will provide a range of facilities for the diverse population. All new trails and alterations to existing trails will address ADA accessibility. Provide support facilities at locations such as trailheads that incorporate ADA-compliant picnic facilities, restrooms, and other universally accessible amenities.

**Trails 3:** Locate and maintain trails, trailheads, and unpaved roads (designated as multi-use trails) to avoid or minimize negative impacts to natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreation resources and to avoid areas of

geological instability. (See Unpaved Roads goals and guidelines and guideline **Wildlife 2**).

**Trails 4:** Trails in the park and region are often adjacent to private property or are routed through private property via easement agreements. Provide signs clarifying public property boundaries where necessary and provide trail users with information regarding park rules, wayfinding, and regulations to minimize public/private use conflicts and trespassing.

**Trails 5:** Coordinate with regional parks and open space providers, community-based organizations, and landowners to encourage trail connections that connect Butano SP with other parks and open space preserves. Support federal, state, and regional trail objectives and plans, such as county local coastal programs. Provide maps that show authorized park and regional trail access points and trail systems.

**Trails 6:** Focus on acquiring, from willing sources, recreational corridors and easements for trails that connect the park to regional state parks and other natural lands and open spaces.

**Trails 7:** Develop a parkwide Roads and Trails Management Plan that evaluates the park's entire circulation system (including trails, unpaved roads, and paved roads) to guide the management, maintenance, location, and use of existing and future roads and trails. Emphasize opportunities for visitors to access and enjoy the park's natural and cultural resources, its recreational opportunities and facilities, its diverse topography, natural communities, and scenic views. The management plan should be consistent with the Department's *Trails Policy*, recognize regional trail connections, recreation opportunities, resource sensitivities, habitat linkages, and population diversity, and provide opportunities for public input.



The Jackson Flats trailhead along the Butano Fire Road.

## Unpaved Roads

Butano SP has unpaved roads that serve multiple uses – park operations and patrol, fire suppression and emergency access, bicycle riding, horseback riding, and hiking. Some of the unpaved roads in the park are designated fire roads that are managed and maintained by Cal Fire.

**Unpaved Roads Goal:** Unpaved roads will be managed and maintained to minimize negative effects to natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreation resources.

**Unpaved Roads Guidelines:**

**Unpaved Roads 1:** Inventory and map the location and condition of unpaved roads in the park. This effort could be in conjunction with a parkwide Roads and Trails Management Plan (see **Trails 7**).

**Unpaved Roads 2:** Evaluate the need for existing unpaved roads and develop a plan, consistent with watershed management plans and assessments, for the removal of any unnecessary unpaved roads.

**Unpaved Roads 3:** Develop an unpaved road management and maintenance strategy, consistent with site-specific conditions and physical constraints.

**Unpaved Roads 4:** Implement unpaved road maintenance prescriptions, consistent with park watershed management plans and with park natural and cultural resources protection.

**Accessibility**

Currently there are universally-accessible camping, picnic, and visitor center facilities at Butano SP. Future projects will retrofit additional existing facilities to ADA standards and provide further universally-accessible facilities and recreation opportunities.

**Accessibility Goal:** Make Butano SP's recreation facilities universally-accessible and provide high quality recreational opportunities for all visitors.

**Accessibility Guidelines:**

**Accessibility 1:** Provide universal access to the park's recreation facilities and resources, where feasible, including buildings and their contents, historic structures and landscapes, roads, walkways, and trails, and the park's important natural and cultural resources, in accordance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act* and California State Park's *Accessibility Guidelines*. Provide universal accessibility in staff work areas and in park residences as they are developed or renovated.

**Accessibility 2:** Use the *California Historic Building Code* as a guideline for providing appropriate accessibility in historic structures. The code provides alternative regulations to facilitate access and use by persons with disabilities to and throughout buildings, structures, and sites designated as qualified historic buildings or properties. Reasonably equivalent access alternatives are evaluated as part of this process.

## Aesthetics

All landscapes are dynamic and have multi-dimensional characteristics. Expansive vistas, focused views, the quality of light, visual patterns and textures, temperature, and scent blend together to create the park's distinctive aesthetic qualities. The park's natural and cultural features and the quality of sound in a park environment also contribute to the quality of visitor experience. Positive sounds such as birds in the trees, moving water, and the hushed quiet in the redwood forest are important aesthetic elements in the park to preserve and protect.

**Aesthetics Goal:** Identify and protect positive aesthetic values to preserve the fundamental character of the park for future generations.

### Aesthetics Guidelines:

**Aesthetics 1:** Protect, preserve and enhance positive aesthetic resources and remove or screen elements that have negative aesthetic qualities to preserve the park's scenic and recreation value.

**Aesthetics 2:** Integrate positive aesthetic features into the design of park facilities, interpretive programs, and maintenance programs. The design style should be site-specific and contextual – reinforcing the colors, shapes, scale, and materials in the surrounding environment to integrate and complement the park's natural setting. Preserve and showcase scenic views, use native (or replicated) building materials where appropriate, use muted colors that reflect the natural surroundings, and take advantage of (or screen) ephemeral conditions (e.g. weather, wind, sunlight, etc.), as appropriate.

**Aesthetics 3:** Develop and implement design standards or guidelines for facilities and signage to share similarities in style and/or materials, to create a sense of park identity and visual continuity, and to reflect and preserve positive aesthetic values. Evaluate "first impressions" at the park

entrance points and in other park locations and organize, consolidate, screen, or remove unnecessary, repetitive, or unsightly elements.

**Aesthetics 4:** Where appropriate, visually screen parking lots, roads, operations facilities, storage areas, and other negative views from public use areas. Use native vegetation, rocks, elevation change, berms, and other methods that either use or mimic natural elements to minimize any negative visual impacts from these facilities and enhance scenic views.

**Aesthetics 5:** Limit artificial lighting to avoid brightening the dark night sky. Restrict night lighting to the more developed areas of the park (e.g. buildings and parking lots) and provide lighting fixtures that focus the light downward. Light levels should be as low as possible, consistent with public safety standards. Refer to the Department's Lightscape Protection Policy (DOM, Chapter 0300, 2004) when evaluating lighting.

**Aesthetics 6:** Minimize vehicle noise in visitor use areas through screening, separation of use, and other appropriate techniques. Locate administrative and maintenance functions away from the park's public areas, if possible, and take appropriate measures to minimize construction and maintenance noise.

**Aesthetics 7:** Restrict levels of sound from radios and other human-made devices. Enforce park noise standards, especially during night and early morning hours. Refer to the Department's Soundscape Protection Policy (DOM, Chapter 0300, 2004) when planning new facilities or evaluating noise standards, and comply with federal and state noise ordinances and standards.

**Aesthetics 8:** Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies, open space providers and community groups, landowners, and other stakeholders to preserve, protect, and enhance positive aesthetic features and viewsheds. Follow Local Coastal Program and other applicable standards for aesthetic resources.

**Aesthetics 9:** Acquire property and conservation easements from willing sources to expand and protect the park's aesthetic resources.

## Concessions

Concessions play a supportive role in enhancing the mission of California State Parks by providing essential and appropriate services that the Department may not have the resources or expertise to provide and are not being provided nearby by private business. Currently, there are no concessions operating at Butano SP.

**Concessions Goal:** Provide high quality recreation and visitor services through concessions contracts while protecting the park's natural, cultural, recreation, and aesthetic resources.

### Concessions Guidelines:

**Concessions 1:** Provide visitor services and products that enhance recreational and/or educational experiences at the park, consistent with the Public Resources Code, Department policies, the park's purpose and classification, and General Plan guidelines.

**Concessions 2:** Evaluate and implement new types of concessions at the park to respond to regional and statewide recreation trends, demographic changes, and needs that are not being met by the private sector.

## INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

The National Association for Interpretation defines interpretation as "a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource." Interpretation is designed to inspire the audience to care more about a subject or resource, not necessarily to teach facts.

Interpretation can enhance a park visitor's experience and their understanding of the park's resources. Interpretation promotes recreational enjoyment, visitor safety, cultural and natural resource protection and appreciation, and an understanding of management and maintenance practices. Opportunities exist to increase the effectiveness, accessibility, and efficiency of park interpretive programs, activities, and facilities. Interpretation can play a larger role in helping visitors reduce their impacts on the park's resources and promoting future park and environmental stewardship.

Education differs from interpretation in that it is aligned with established curricula, educational goals, and specific learning objectives. Education programs are usually presented to school groups. California State Parks is a leader in providing

Good interpretation  
inspires the  
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subject or resource.

education programs for California's grade K-12 school groups. There are opportunities to provide more outdoor environmental education and other education programs in and around Butano SP, especially in partnership with other education providers in the region.

**Interpretation and Education Goal A:** Increase visitor understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the park.

**Interpretation and Education Guidelines:**

**Interpretation 1:** Use interpretation techniques to provide visitor orientation and wayfinding information.

**Interpretation 2:** Provide visitors with attractive, well-written information on interpretation and recreation opportunities.

**Interpretation and Education Goal B:** Support park management goals, including public safety and resource protection, and inspire visitors to support the park and adopt resource protection behavior beyond their park visit.

**Interpretation 3:** Educate visitors about safe behavior in the park.

**Interpretation 4:** Provide interpretation on marbled murrelet protection and the impact of feeding wildlife.

**Interpretation 5:** Interpret other management programs to restore and preserve the park's natural and cultural resources.

**Interpretation 6:** Interpret State Parks' measures to reduce global climate change and inspire park visitors to adopt similar measures in their daily lives.

**Interpretation and Education Goal C:** Interpret the distinctive features of the park and put them into a regional and statewide context.

**Interpretation 7:** When developing interpretive programs and interpretation plans for the park, focus on the most important and distinctive values and stories of Butano SP, as outlined in the interpretive themes in this plan.

**Interpretation 8:** Interpret how park resources and stories relate to those of the local region and other state parks. Refer visitors to other regional interpretation sites for further information on related themes.



**Interpretation and Education Goal D:** Integrate natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational interpretation. Interpret processes and relationships (patterns, cycles, interactions, and adaptations) rather than isolated facts.

**Interpretation 9:** Interpret wildlife, plants, and people (past, present, and future) in the context of the park's ecology and history.

**Interpretation 10:** Demonstrate how different perceptions of area resources have led to vastly different uses, including farming, logging, nature study and appreciation, and recreation.

**Interpretation 11:** Provide additional cultural history interpretation; for example, cultural history exhibits at the visitor center and interpretive panels at selected historic sites.

**Interpretation and Education Goal E:** Make interpretation more engaging, address multiple learning styles, and accommodate people with disabilities by using varied interpretation techniques and media.

**Interpretation 12:** Emphasize tactile, auditory, and object-related media that are dynamic or dramatic. Use a well-designed mixture of media to make exhibits interesting and make interpretation accessible to all visitors.

**Interpretation 13:** Consider offering scheduled shuttle interpretive tours of backcountry areas using existing fire roads, if road easements and ownership will allow this on suitable routes. These tours could also visit other park units in the Santa Cruz Mountains and offer an overview of the area's history, geology, wildlife, and plant communities.

**Interpretation and Education Goal F:** Align all educational programs with California Department of Education Content Standards.

**Interpretation 14:** Design future school programs to be aligned with appropriate target grade content standards. Ensure that redwood ecology and riparian habitat school programs are aligned with the California Department of Education Science Content Standards for grades 4-6.

**Interpretation 15:** When planning a program with an emphasis in one main curriculum area, include appropriate material that addresses grade-level content standards in other curriculum areas when appropriate – for

example, include history/social science, visual arts, and English-language arts in a life sciences program.

**Interpretation and Education Goal G:** Increase support and resources for park interpretation.

**Interpretation 16:** Work with interested parties to provide environmental education, research, and restoration opportunities.

**Interpretation 17:** Coordinate with other area interpretation and education providers, such as the Peninsula Open Space Trust and the Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, to provide interpretive, educational, and recreational opportunities. Cooperative agreements could include sharing and coordinating recreational, interpretive, and educational facilities and programs.

**Interpretation 18:** Improve the park's interpretation resource library for docents and staff, onsite archive, interpretation tool and material storage area, and docent support facilities. Submit all interpretation archive materials to the park's Unit Data File to ensure it will be available in the future.

**Interpretation 19:** Work closely with the park's cooperating association and volunteers to improve and expand park interpretation resources, programs, and opportunities.

### Subsequent Interpretation Planning

State park unit interpretation planning is divided into three levels, each more detailed than the preceding level. The first, broadest, level is the interpretation information in the unit's general plan. The general plan interpretation goals and guidelines are based on State Parks mission, systemwide interpretation operations, and resource management goals, guidelines, and directives.

The two subsequent plan levels are:

- Interpretation Management Plan
- Project Plan

It is important to develop these more detailed interpretation plans in order to present an organized, well-managed, and cohesive interpretation program in the park. Future interpretation planning for Butano State Park will build on the vision, goals, guidelines, themes, and interpretive periods as presented in this General Plan.

### *Interpretation Management Plan*

The Interpretation Management Plan builds on the interpretive periods, themes, goals, and guidelines from the general plan to provide greater definition of the unit's interpretation. It is a shorter-range plan than the general plan. The Interpretation Management Plan is divided into two sections:

- Master Plan
- Implementation Plan

The Master Plan section expands on the themes from the general plan, makes more specific recommendations and projections, and defines media and techniques to be used in park interpretation. The Implementation Plan section prioritizes unit interpretation development projects, provides estimated costs, and recommends an approach to implement the plan. The Implementation Plan section may need to be reviewed and updated more frequently than the Master Plan section.

### *Interpretive Project Plans*

Interpretive project plans provide yet more specific direction to the park's interpretive programs and facilities by defining specific interpretive development projects. Interpretive project plans detail the methods, media, and programs for interpreting the resources of a unit. Examples of interpretive project plans include exhibit plans, interpretive trail plans, media plans, and furnishing plans.

**Interpretation Planning 1:** Prepare an Interpretation Management Plan that further delineates the park's interpretive themes, periods, facilities, and media, and presents a plan for implementation. Update the management plan as needed, based on changing area conditions and park and visitor priorities.

**Interpretation Planning 2:** Consider preparing the Master Plan segment of the Interpretation Management Plan as a regional plan, including nearby parks such as Año Nuevo SP and Big Basin Redwoods SP, in order to coordinate interpretation on a regional level.

**Interpretation Planning 3:** Develop specific interpretive project plans for all Butano SP interpretation.

**Interpretation Planning 4:** Integrate all interpretation planning with regional and statewide interpretation planning and development, both within California State Parks and with other local agencies.

## **Interpretive Periods**

A primary interpretive period focuses interpretation on the time period of greatest significance in the park's cultural history. The significance is determined by important events associated with the park site, or by notable existing historic or prehistoric resources at the site. Choosing the primary and secondary interpretive periods also involves considering what stories are best told in a particular park, the uniqueness of the resources, the amount of information available to draw upon, and the physical evidence available for visitors to relate to. A secondary interpretive period designates a time period that is worthy of interpretation but that should receive less emphasis than the primary period. Except for major natural phenomena such as earthquakes or fire, interpretive periods generally are just set for cultural resource interpretation.

### *Primary Interpretive Period*

From Logging and Homesteading to Butano State Park: 1860s to 1950s

The Primary Interpretive Period includes the 1860s homesteading of William Jackson in Little Butano Canyon and E.P. Mullen's goat ranch at Goat Hill; William Taylor's 1873 shingle mill on Little Butano Creek; the 1920s Peninsula Farms on Little Butano Flats; the story of Peter Olmo; the unsuccessful 1920s campaign of the Sempervirens Club to preserve the Butano Creek redwoods; the 1930s Save-the-Redwoods League study for a park on Little Butano Creek; and the successful 1950s campaign of Butano Forest Associates to help the State acquire park lands.

### *Secondary Interpretive Period*

California Indian Period: prehistory to 1850s

The Secondary Interpretive Period includes the prehistoric and post-European contact lifeways and histories of the Native California Indians of the area.

## **Interpretive Themes**

Interpretation uses themes to connect visitors to the significant recreational, natural, and cultural resources of the park in personally meaningful ways. Themes provide a point of view for presenting information and inspiration through various interpretive media. The unifying theme integrates the park's themes.



### *Unifying Theme*

Butano's ancient and second-growth redwoods and its diverse natural communities and human history offer visitors rich opportunities for recreation and reflection.

The unifying theme stresses the restorative value of a visit to "the quiet redwood park." It also emphasizes that there are other resources besides redwoods to be enjoyed and appreciated.

### *Primary Themes*

#### The Redwood Theme

A Second Chance - The park's second-growth redwood forest is on its way to becoming old-growth once again.

This theme explores the specialties and adaptations of the coast redwood with an emphasis on how the redwood's resilience accounts for the rapid restoration of logged over areas of the park to their current state of integrity and beauty.

#### Natural Communities and Adaptations Theme

Butano State Park, along with other Santa Cruz Mountains state parks, preserves a rich variety of wild communities and species that use well-honed relationships and adaptations to survive.

This theme covers the park's natural communities from the dark moist redwood valleys to the dry ridges and peaks. These communities include: coastal scrub, grassland, coastal stream, wetland, redwood/Douglas-fir forest, oak woodland, and knobcone pine communities. This theme also covers the evolutionary adaptations that species in the park use to survive, as well as the park's special status habitats and species.

#### Recreation Theme

Butano Now and Tomorrow - We can enjoy Butano State Park today and preserve its many values for tomorrow.

This theme addresses visitors' need for orientation to the park, the park's recreational opportunities, and tips on how to enjoy a safe and low-impact visit.

### Aesthetic Theme

The Quiet Redwood Park – Butano State Park offers a chance to slow down and enjoy the peaceful beauty of the redwood forest.

“Take time to stop and smell the roses” is a truism that many people are not able to follow in their day-to-day busy lives. At Butano SP, visitors can reconnect with nature and themselves via the scattered pattern of light sifting through the redwood branches, the soft feeling and earthy smell of the redwood duff underfoot, the muffled echo of bird calls throughout the forest, and the time and tranquility to think.

### Resource Opportunities and Challenges of the Future Theme

The natural communities at Butano State Park have and will continue to benefit from restoration projects, but they also face challenges from global climate change and other stressors in the future.

California State Parks preserves, protects, and also restores natural resources in its care. Global climate change will affect the plant and animal communities at Butano SP. Some changes can be mitigated, but other changes may be irreversible. State Parks is actively working to reduce its carbon footprint and lessen the negative effects of global climate change. Park visitors will receive this message, and also be inspired to make changes in their own habits to reduce global climate change.

### *Secondary Themes*

#### Physical Forces Theme

Geology, weather, water, and fire continue to shape and re-create Butano State Park's plant and animal communities.

This theme covers the geologic formation of the Little Butano Creek and Gazos Creek watersheds, how the area's topography transforms weather into microclimates, and how fire destroys and rejuvenates Butano's plant and animal communities.

#### Ohlone Theme

The Ohlone camped along Butano's ridgetops in summer and used them as corridors for trading marine resources inland.

This theme covers the lifeways and traditions of the Ohlone people that lived in this area.





### Logging Theme

Early loggers cut Butano's redwoods to supply the changing needs of a growing state.

This theme covers the history, personalities, and technology of logging in the Butano area.

### Homesteading Theme

Making a living as a pioneer in the Butano forest required hard work and ingenuity.

This theme covers the 19<sup>th</sup> century lives and lifestyles of the Jackson, Taylor, and Mullen families, and the 20<sup>th</sup> century story of Peter Olmo.

### Park Preservation Theme

The people of California leave a living legacy by saving the Butano forest and founding Butano State Park.

This theme covers the preservation campaigns and personalities of the Sempervirens Fund, Save-the-Redwoods League, and Butano Forest Associates that helped the State acquire the park's lands. It also interprets preservation groups' continued support of Butano SP and the surrounding redwood forest.

## **PARK OPERATIONS**

Infrastructure and operations are at the core of a functional park. They are integral to meeting the park's purpose and vision and managing resources and visitor uses. Because future staffing and management organization may change, interagency and intra-district cooperation and sharing of personnel and resources can help to ensure efficient operations and up-to-date infrastructure.

### **Visitor Safety**

Visitor safety is closely associated with a well-designed and efficient access and circulation system. Visitor vehicular access is limited to Gazos Creek Road, Cloverdale Road, and the Park Entrance Road. Park staff also use the Butano Fire Road, the Olmo Fire Road, and the road to the water treatment plant for patrols of the park and for emergency access.

**Visitor Safety Goal:** Ensure inter-modal emergency access to all areas of the park.

Interagency and intra-district cooperation can help to ensure efficient operations.

### **Visitor Safety Guidelines:**

**Visitor Safety 1:** Ensure emergency communications, radios, frequencies, and other communications are available in order to carry out visitor and public safety.

**Visitor Safety 2:** Work with adjoining landowners to establish right-of-way easements over the Butano Fire Road and Olmo Fire Road, where necessary, for park operations, emergency vehicle access, and recreational use.

**Visitor Safety 3:** Work with Cal Fire and other agencies to ensure that emergency response vehicles can reach most park locations, given the park's paved roads, bridges, and unpaved fire roads, and that alternative emergency response measures are explored.

### **Special Agreements**

The park has a variety of legal agreements with different entities. It is important that these agreements are kept up-to-date and that they respect the purpose and vision of the park while honoring any legal requirements.

**Special Agreements Goal A:** Ensure that water diversions out of Little Butano Creek meet legal requirements, do not interfere with park operations, and do not have significant adverse effects on resources.

#### **Special Agreements Guidelines:**

**Special Agreements A-1:** Work with the current owner of the Little Butano Creek water rights (Peninsula Open Space Trust) to monitor current diversion practices and ensure that the methods comply with current legal agreements.

**Special Agreements Goal B:** Enhance the functionality of the park operations through coordination and cooperation with adjacent landowners. Ensure that all easements, access agreements, or other legal arrangements are in the best interests of the Department and consistent with the park's purpose and vision.

**Special Agreements B-1:** Contact adjacent landowners to identify any parcels that may be available from willing sellers and suitable as park additions. Investigate and seek opportunities for securing easements or parcel additions that will enhance the functionality of the park.



**Special Agreements B-2:** Review all legal agreements regularly and check operating language to ensure compatibility with the park's mission and operations, monitor physical effects over time, if any, and update and modify agreements as necessary.

## Operations Facilities

Efficient park operations require adequate staffing and associated facilities. Currently staff administration work takes place at the unit's ranger office, at nearby Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve, at the Santa Cruz Mountains Sector Office, and at the Santa Cruz District Office. Maintenance operations are conducted out of two separate nearby offices. Identifying long-term needs and plans for multi-functional staff operations will prevent piecemeal developments and inefficient park operations.

**Facilities Goal:** Provide sufficient staff housing and all-season work-space for park operations, storage, and seasonal workers to meet long-term operational needs.

### Facilities Guidelines:

**Facilities 1:** Maintain and upgrade existing park residences for staff housing and upgrade structures for fire safety and functionality.

**Facilities 2:** Ensure adequate office space for rangers, maintenance staff, administrative staff, and volunteers to provide self-contained, onsite management.

**Facilities 3:** Design multipurpose all-weather work areas for maintenance operations and for storage of supplies and tools. Locate work areas close to vehicle storage and maintenance shops.

**Facilities 4:** Identify temporary housing or other facility needs that would attract and provide for seasonal workers.

## Utilities

Park building construction dates vary from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to modular buildings erected in the late 1990s. Current utility needs may require upgrades to existing services. One of the biggest constraints is the limited amount of potable water for public consumption and the limited water storage and distribution. Expansion of the system is also restricted based on reliance on the current water plant and the water source, the Little Butano Creek.

**Utilities Goal:** Ensure long-term sustainable, environmentally compatible and energy-efficient infrastructure function for the park.

**Utilities Guidelines:**

**Utilities 1:** Upgrade the potable water supply and distribution systems to the existing park buildings and key visitor locations.

**Utilities 2:** Locate and map the current utility systems in the park - telephone, electricity, and water – and maintain maps in a current condition, so that staff can recognize and respond to utility problems efficiently.

**Utilities 3:** Identify utility needs and implement utility improvements comprehensively to avoid unnecessary site disturbance and expensive rerouting of utility corridors and junctions over time. Ensure maximum energy efficiency with all improvements, repairs, and new projects.

**Utilities 4:** Prepare a condition assessment of the unit's current park infrastructure and determine the long-term facility needs for water, power, and other utility systems. Develop recommendations for utility replacement, upgrades, and new construction, in support of future park development, maintenance, and operational needs. Plans for infrastructure and facilities development shall be consistent with other park management goals and guidelines identified by the General Plan.

**Sustainability**

The concept of sustainable design represents a desire to harmonize the built environment with natural systems by emphasizing the principles of energy conservation, waste reduction, and pollution prevention. California State Parks can apply sustainable design principles that complement the Department's mission to provide recreation opportunities while preserving resources for future generations and to focus on creating environments that promote good health. It is especially important that park units use sustainable design principles, including energy and water conservation, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in light of the potential environmental changes due to global climate change. In doing so, the Department will also encourage the development of new technology and innovations that will reduce these heat-trapping emissions, and will illustrate to visitors examples of positive actions to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Sustainability Goal:** Incorporate sustainable design principles into the design, development, operations, and maintenance of park facilities and programs.

**Sustainability Guidelines:**

**Sustainability 1:** Use sustainable design strategies to minimize impacts to the park's natural, cultural and aesthetic resources. Choose low-impact building sites, structures, and building and landscape materials, and maintenance and management practices that avoid the use of environmentally-damaging, waste-producing, or hazardous materials. Use natural, renewable, indigenous, and recyclable materials, and energy-efficient design.

**Sustainability 2:** The use of sustainable materials shall be compatible with the aesthetics goals and guidelines.

**Sustainability 3:** Interpret sustainable design elements in the park to encourage a sense of connection to the surrounding natural and cultural resources and inspire personal behavior that reduces negative impacts to the environment and promotes energy conservation.

**Sustainability 4:** Consult the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. These standards have been developed to promote environmentally healthy design, construction, and maintenance practices

**Sustainability 5:** Use low- or zero-emission vehicles when possible, for park operations and maintenance, and a potential shuttle system. Use low- or zero-emission grounds maintenance equipment as much as practicable, such as electric trimmers, chain saws, and mowers. Substitution of lower-emission and alternative energy-source tools and vehicles will reduce air quality impacts and heat-trapping emissions, and promote energy efficiency.

**Regional Planning and Community Involvement**

Butano SP is located on the western slope of the Santa Cruz Mountains, with its primary use area approximately halfway between the coast and the uppermost mountain peaks. To the south and east are Año Nuevo SP and Big Basin Redwoods SP, and close by are several additional state parks with similar natural, cultural, recreational, and scenic resources. The proximity of these parks provides the opportunity for coordinated and integrated management. Working in partnership with the region's open space

agencies, recreation providers, and adjacent property owners can strengthen natural and cultural resource protection, enhance park operations, improve recreational and educational opportunities, and protect property interests in the region.

**Regional Planning Goal:** Integrate the planning and management programs at Butano SP with the programs of other parks, natural lands, and open spaces in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

**Regional Planning Guidelines:**

**Regional Planning 1:** Coordinate resource management, operations, staff housing, interpretation, visitor and emergency services, and facility development programs at Butano SP with other state parks in the area to provide an integrated network of regional natural lands, open spaces, and healthy ecosystems, protect cultural and aesthetic resources and high-quality recreational opportunities, and promote operational efficiencies.

**Regional Planning 2:** Work in partnership with state, regional, and local agencies, private landowners, and other organizations to establish a network of regional open spaces and a variety of recreational, educational, and transportation opportunities. Coordinate park planning with local natural lands and open space planning efforts such as those of the Peninsula Open Space Trust, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, and other regional organizations.

**Regional Planning 3:** Coordinate and collaborate with universities, colleges, and other research organizations to increase the knowledge of resources in the park and in the Santa Cruz Mountains region. Acquire and maintain cooperative agreements with adjacent landowners, neighbors, and local jurisdictions responsible for zoning and land use management to provide open space buffer areas to protect sensitive park resources and to identify and preserve wildlife habitat linkages.

**Regional Planning 4:** Communication systems within the park and with the greater Santa Cruz Mountains region should be maintained to provide the greatest electronic transmission area possible to allow park staff to respond effectively to emergencies.

**Regional Planning 5:** Coordinate with state, county, city, and local organizations to provide effective and efficient



public safety programs in the park and to maintain emergency evacuation routes to allow safe and immediate exit from areas of the park where people visit, work, or reside.

**Regional Planning 6:** Coordinate with state, regional, and local agencies and other organizations to provide alternative transportation modes and services between Butano SP and other state and regional parks, open spaces and urban centers.

**Regional Planning 7:** To expand affordable housing for park employees, coordinate with other parks and agencies in the region to identify and utilize potential shared housing opportunities.

**Regional Planning 8:** Provide input to San Mateo County, the California Coastal Commission, and appropriate local, state, and federal agencies during environmental review of development projects regarding the visual impacts of surrounding development within the viewshed of Butano State Park, particularly if development would be visible from important viewpoints.

## 4.6 MANAGING VISITOR CAPACITY

The Visitor Capacity Management (VCM) section presents the initial capacity of developed facilities and the Department's methodology used to evaluate existing and desired conditions and capacity issues related to the future development and use of the park. The General Plan and this discussion of visitor capacity provides a structure to meet the requirements of the Public Resources Code, Section 5019.5, which states:

"Before any park or recreational area development plan is made, the department shall cause to be made a land carrying capacity survey of the proposed park or recreational area, including in such survey such factors as soil, moisture, and natural cover."

Butano SP contains developed areas with recreation and administrative facilities, as well as a large amount of undeveloped natural open space. The moderate visitor use that presently occurs in the park is considered to be at levels generally consistent with the park's resource management objectives.

The General Plan identifies recreation opportunities and physical constraints, and includes guidelines and alternatives for managing resources and desired visitor experiences. Using the adaptive management process described in the following section, park managers can measure visitor use and take the appropriate actions to reduce or limit negative impacts. Physical constraints for development and public use exist in the park, such as the presence of old growth and recovering redwood forests, sensitive vegetation communities and wildlife, archaeological and historic sites and features, steep topography, existing roads, easements, and drainages. These elements are limiting factors in park facilities design and area visitor capacities.

The type, quality, and character of visitor experience are also influenced by visitor demographics, population diversity, and statewide recreation trends. These dynamic influences contribute to defining the nature of what we consider desirable park experiences and conditions. Social constraints also exist due to the increased population levels and diversity in California and within the communities in the region. These population trends will have an influence on park development and facility design, and can also be viewed as opportunities for cultural awareness and exchange.

The Department's methodology focuses on the initial capacity of developed facilities and desired resource and social conditions. Subsequent surveys, analysis, and monitoring programs are necessary in order to make final determinations and adjustments in visitor capacity through future adaptive management actions. The methodology to be used in this process is outlined below.

### **VISITOR CAPACITY MANAGEMENT METHODOLOGY**

The following represents an adaptive management cycle, or methodology, that involves research, planning, monitoring, and management actions to achieve sustainable resources and social conditions. This methodology was initiated during this general planning effort and applied with the level of detail commensurate with the conceptual nature of this plan. This includes the identification of existing opportunities and constraints and the description of desired resources and social conditions (see **Table 4-1**). Visitor capacities are included for park areas when sufficient data is presented.

Visitor Capacity Management is defined by California State Parks as:

"A methodology used to determine and maintain the desired resource and social conditions that fulfill the purpose and mission of a park. It includes establishing initial visitor capacities, then monitoring key indicators in order to identify appropriate management actions in response to unacceptable conditions."

## Adaptive Management Process

The following tasks are usually carried out during the resource inventories, unit classification, and general planning processes. Subsequent management plans and site investigations provide the more detailed information necessary for project-level analysis and impact assessments in order to initiate required mitigation and monitoring programs. These tasks are presented here for an understanding of the iterative process that California State Parks considers from the programmatic planning stages of the general plan through the project implementation and monitoring phases.

- 1. Identify Existing Opportunities and Constraints:** Through ongoing research, surveys, and site investigations we are able to document existing resources and social conditions. This data helps identify opportunities and constraints, and establishes the baseline condition for natural, cultural, and recreational resources.
- 2. Determine Vision and Desired Conditions:** The analysis of current uses and condition assessments begin to shape the types of activities and experiences that are desired. This increases our ability to determine the resource conditions we desire and the protective measures, including thresholds (standards) of acceptable resource conditions that are necessary to maintain those resource conditions.
- 3. Identify Issues and Evaluate Alternatives:** The analysis of resource and social impacts related to current use helps identify the issues, problems, and thresholds that shape the vision or desired conditions of the park. Additional surveys, studies, or site analysis may be necessary to understand the full effects of existing uses, potential alternatives, or feasibility of desired improvements. It is at this stage that the objectives of visitor use and capacity for specific units are determined, which may include quantitative limits on

certain park uses (e.g., the number of campsites or parking spaces in the park).

- 4. Develop Measurable Indicators and Thresholds:** Key indicators are identified that can diagnose whether the desired conditions for a park are being met. These indicators must be measurable and have a direct relationship to at least one desired condition (e.g. the number of exposed tree roots per mile of trail). Thresholds that reflect desired conditions are then identified for each indicator (for example: 100 tree roots per trail mile maximum). Through monitoring processes, management is alerted when conditions exceed a determined threshold or deviate outside the acceptable range.
- 5. Establish Initial Visitor Capacities:** Initial visitor capacities are formulated based on the analysis of existing conditions, alternative considerations, desired future conditions, and prescribed goals and objectives. Implementation occurs when sufficient knowledge is gained and plans are finalized. As environmental impact assessments and monitoring programs are initiated, plans are implemented and new patterns of use are generated.
- 6. Monitor Use and Identify Changing Conditions:** Through monitoring and further study we can assess the degree of impact or changing conditions that occur over a specified period of time. Thresholds and indicators are used in the monitoring process to determine when an unacceptable condition exists. Unacceptable conditions trigger management action(s) appropriate to correct the unacceptable condition.
- 7. Adjust Environmental or Social Conditions:** As monitoring efforts reveal that conditions may be approaching or exceeding thresholds, management must consider alternatives and take appropriate action. The analysis of impacts and their causes should direct management toward actions that adjust resource/experience conditions to a desired state. This may include further studies, new project design, and stronger enforcement of rules and regulations, which may also require adjustments to the initial visitor capacities.

## Research, Investigations, and Monitoring

Data from research, pre-project site investigations, visitor impact assessments, post-project evaluations, and baseline resource monitoring can all be captured and used to make sure the desired condition of the park is maintained. A program of continued research and site investigations provides information and documents updated data on resource conditions and new problems as they may occur. Periodic surveys provide a measure of visitor satisfaction and identify recreation trends and public opinions on the types of activities and experiences people are seeking. These ongoing efforts build the unit data file for subsequent planning and analysis, and monitoring programs ensure that development actions achieve the desired outcomes.

**Table 4-1** contains a sampling of indicators that may be developed based on some of the guidelines in this plan and their associated desired outcomes. These indicators may be modified on a regular basis, based on site-specific knowledge, recent observations in the field, and updates in scientific understanding, in order to achieve the desired outcome.

**Table 4-1  
Desired Outcomes and Indicators  
(Carrying Capacity Objective)**

<b>Goals &amp; Guidelines</b>	<b>Desired Outcomes</b>	<b>Indicators (Environmental &amp; Social)</b>	<b>Potential Management Actions &amp; Monitoring Activities</b>
<b>Natural Resources</b>  Protect all special status native wildlife species and their habitats. Include all taxa that are locally important (including endemic species) as well as those protected by federal and/or state law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sustainable populations of special status wildlife species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Occurrence of special-status wildlife species.</li> <li>▪ Active nest sites.</li> <li>▪ Presence of suitable habitat.</li> <li>▪ Abundance of prey species.</li> <li>▪ Periodic sightings reported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare and update a comprehensive list of species requiring special management attention.</li> <li>▪ Periodic field surveys.</li> <li>▪ Check for active nest sites prior to construction activities.</li> </ul>
Protect special status plant species to the degree necessary to maintain or enhance populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sustainable populations of special status plant species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Occurrence of special status plant species.</li> <li>▪ Presence of associated healthy plant communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Initiate a survey for special status plant species in the park.</li> <li>▪ Periodic field surveys.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Resources</b>  Protect significant cultural sites and features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Integrity and value of cultural resources retained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Disturbance to known archeological sites.</li> <li>▪ Retention of historic building fabric.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Survey, record, and evaluate areas of high probability for prehistoric archeological sites (particularly along ridgelines).</li> <li>▪ Establish criteria of</li> </ul>



**Table 4-1**  
**Desired Outcomes and Indicators**  
**(Carrying Capacity Objective)**

<b>Goals &amp; Guidelines</b>	<b>Desired Outcomes</b>	<b>Indicators (Environmental &amp; Social)</b>	<b>Potential Management Actions &amp; Monitoring Activities</b>
			<p>significance for each class of resource.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Investigate, record, and evaluate the known historical sites and areas of historic-period activity.</li> <li>▪ Staff observations of park resources and visitor activity during day-to-day operations.</li> <li>▪ Periodic maintenance and building inspections.</li> </ul>
<p>Preserve and protect those resources found to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Protect significant prehistoric sites through identification, preservation, and avoidance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Integrity and value of cultural resources retained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Disturbance to known archeological sites.</li> <li>▪ Retention of historic building fabric.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop treatment recommendations for significant historic structures and identify compatible and non-compatible uses.</li> <li>▪ Staff observations of park resources and visitor activity during day-to-day operations.</li> <li>▪ Periodic maintenance and building inspections.</li> </ul>

**Table 4-1  
Desired Outcomes and Indicators  
(Carrying Capacity Objective)**

<b>Goals &amp; Guidelines</b>	<b>Desired Outcomes</b>	<b>Indicators (Environmental &amp; Social)</b>	<b>Potential Management Actions &amp; Monitoring Activities</b>
<b>Recreation Resources</b>  Provide a range of high-quality recreation opportunities that allow California's diverse population to visit, enjoy, experience, and appreciate all of the park's resources, especially the coast redwoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A variety of recreation experiences that enhance appreciation and enjoyment of the park's resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presence of returning park visitors.</li> <li>▪ Diversity of recreation activity throughout the park.</li> <li>▪ Diversity in park visitation demographics.</li> <li>▪ Conflict among park users and differing recreation activities.</li> <li>▪ Effects on park resources with increases in park visitation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implement the adaptive management process as part of park operations.</li> <li>▪ Staff observations of park resources and visitor activity during day-to-day operations.</li> <li>▪ Design facilities for user needs.</li> <li>▪ Visitor satisfaction surveys</li> <li>▪ Evaluate new recreation opportunities, trends, and activities</li> <li>▪ Respond to changing visitor demographics.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Zone Guidelines</b>			
<b>Entrance and Facilities Zone:</b>  Remove the former nature lodge building from the Little Butano Creek riparian zone, and re-establish current use near the park entrance, in conjunction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Building site returned to a natural riparian condition.</li> <li>▪ Visitor services and park administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Riparian vegetation occurring at building site.</li> <li>▪ Natural seasonal stream flows.</li> <li>▪ Enhancement of riparian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff observations of park resources and visitor activity during day-to-day operations.</li> <li>▪ Periodic field resource</li> </ul>

**Table 4-1**  
**Desired Outcomes and Indicators**  
**(Carrying Capacity Objective)**

<b>Goals &amp; Guidelines</b>	<b>Desired Outcomes</b>	<b>Indicators (Environmental &amp; Social)</b>	<b>Potential Management Actions &amp; Monitoring Activities</b>
<p>with other operational facilities.</p> <p>Evaluate the potential for restoring the Little Butano Creek streambed habitat in the vicinity of the dam. Consider alternative methods for continued agricultural water supply and distribution.</p>	<p>consolidated for more effective park operations and support for quality visitor experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Original creek channel and riparian habitat restored.</li> <li>▪ Agricultural water supply and distribution for agreement compliance.</li> </ul>	<p>vegetation and habitat.</p>	<p>surveys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Periodic maintenance inspections of stream channel and alternative agricultural water supply system.</li> <li>▪ Staff observations of park resources and visitor activity during day-to-day operations and rain season periods, particularly in downstream areas near park access and development areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gazos Mountain Camp Zone:</b></p> <p>Adapt the existing facilities (former Gazos Mountain Camp) to support park programs, educational, and recreation activities that are compatible with the natural resources of the area, such as regional environmental education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Visitor access through appropriate adaptive use of existing facilities.</li> <li>▪ Environmental education and recreation activities in a setting that reinforces and enhances themes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presence of special status wildlife species.</li> <li>▪ Active nest sites.</li> <li>▪ Presence of suitable habitat.</li> <li>▪ Wildlife sightings reported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Periodic field surveys.</li> <li>▪ Survey for active nest sites and presence of special status plant and wildlife species prior to any improvements to existing facilities.</li> <li>▪ Limit the number of people</li> </ul>

**Table 4-1  
Desired Outcomes and Indicators  
(Carrying Capacity Objective)**

Goals & Guidelines	Desired Outcomes	Indicators (Environmental & Social)	Potential Management Actions & Monitoring Activities
programs.			and use intensity.
<p><b>Backcountry Zone:</b></p> <p>Preserve the natural, cultural, and scenic resources as well as the sense of solitude.</p> <p>Provide visitor/recreation opportunities that encourage appreciation of the remote character of the Backcountry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trail access to backcountry trails and regional multi-use trail network.</li> <li>▪ Additional trail camps for small and large groups provided.</li> <li>▪ Shuttle tours using existing fire roads as part of interpretive programs or special events.</li> <li>▪ The story of the Jackson Flats homestead interpreted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presence of special status plant and wildlife species.</li> <li>▪ Active nest sites.</li> <li>▪ Presence of suitable habitat.</li> <li>▪ Wildlife sightings reported.</li> <li>▪ Erosion on trails and roads.</li> <li>▪ Disturbance to known archeological sites.</li> <li>▪ Conflicts between different types of trail users.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Periodic field resources surveys.</li> <li>▪ Survey for active nest sites and presence of special status plants and wildlife species prior to establishing any new camps or improvements to existing camps.</li> <li>▪ Conduct periodic trail condition appraisals and evaluate use impacts; modify trails to reduce negative impacts of recreation use.</li> </ul>
<p>NOTE: These are only sample indicators and possible management actions. Indicators also pertain to additional resource topics and should be updated by park staff based on field observations, new scientific knowledge, lack of current indicators to accurately reflect changes, etc.</p>			



